

At a public meeting of democrats, held according to previous notice at the School-house in La Salle, on the 27th of June, A. D. 1848, for the purpose of adopting measures to preserve the purity of the elective franchise, and promote the principles of the Democratic Party: **Wm. Byrne, Esq.** of La Salle, was appointed President; Daniel Cosgrove and David Ross, Vice Presidents; E. M. Moore and Charles Noble, Secretaries.

By request of the President, the objects of the meeting were stated by Ambrose O'Connor, Esq. of Peru, and Vice President of Dr. T. W. Hennessy, a committee of nine was appointed by the president, to draft a preamble and resolutions, expressive of the sense of the meeting; whereupon the following named persons were appointed:

Ambrose O'Connor, George W. Gilson, Daniel Cosgrove, Thomas W. Hennessy, E. M. Moore, E. Kelley, D. Sullivan, Richard Oedy, and Wm. Dempsey; who reported to the meeting the following preamble and resolutions, which were unanimously adopted.

The adoption of the resolutions was ably and eloquently advocated by Geo. W. Gilson, Esq. who in commenting upon them, and upon the measures of the meeting, which was often exhibited during the course of his remarks by loud and repeated cheers.

On motion of A. O'Connor, Esq. a committee of seven was appointed, to attend to the interests of the Democratic Party in this portion of La Salle County, consisting of the following named gentlemen: Geo. W. Gilson, D. Cosgrove, A. O'Connor, Richard Oedy, Wm. Byrne, Wm. Hennessy.

On motion of Thomas W. Hennessy, a committee was appointed to wait upon the Hon. Richard Murphy, upon his arrival at Ottawa, and request him to visit La Salle and Peru, and address their citizens, at their earliest convenience.

PREAMBLE AND RESOLUTIONS.

WHEREAS, a convention to make nominations for a political party, to be sustained by that party, ought to be a deliberate body, to canvass the merits, qualifications and acceptability of persons whose services may be demanded, in order to sustain the acknowledged principles of the party to which such persons belong; and whereas the convention system repudiates the idea of any person or persons seeking and demanding office, forestalling its actions, or picking its members, merely to receive the foregone decrees of any cabal or clique; and whereas a convention which refuses to enquire into alleged frauds, intrigues and corruptions, in the selection of its own

members, when respectfully asked by one of its own body, or refuses to explicitly acknowledge when offered cardinal principles of democracy for its approval, and is not in the language of **JOHN C. CALDWELL**, "*fairly called and justly constituted*"; that *that does not allow ample time for the full development of public opinion, and does not represent fairly, accurately and fully the sense of the majority of the party*; and has not, in the language of **MARTIN VAN BUREN**, "*adopted every precaution to secure, through the instrumentality of the convention an honest and full expression of the honest opinions of the majority of their political associates, to destitute of all those moral sanctions which give binding efficacy to its acts*"; and whereas the nomination of John Wentworth by the convention holds it up as a candidate for representative of the fourth Congressional District of the State of Illinois, to be supported by the democratic party, was accompanied by such conclusive evidences of fraud and corruption on the part of Wentworth and his friends to secure his nomination, and for which there can be neither palinode nor denial; and whereas said convention, by stifling enquiry as to the right of certain persons to hold seats as delegates in the Democratic body by refusing to examine into the truths of the charges then and there publicly made, of fraudulent practices, corrupt measures, and undue influence, has been used in the framing and organization of the convention, and by others, clearly showing that the convention had widely departed from the democratic principle of doing equal and exact justice to all, and were determined to force upon the party a candidate deservedly obnoxious to the people: Therefore

Resolved, That the resolutions offered in the late congressional convention for this district, by Richard Murphy, of Lake County, and of the delegates thereto, were imperiously demanded and fully justified as subsequent events have amply proved, and that the refusal of that convention to entertain them or even to suffer debate upon them, only proves more loudly the corruption of that body.

Resolved, That in the resolutions offered to that convention by other delegates from Will county, we recognize the acknowledged corruption of democracy, as promulgated by Van Buren & Calhoun, and the act of that convention by which the principles set forth in those resolutions were not acknowledged as worthy to be cherished and practised, we perceive plainly the disreputable means by which the majority of that body was constituted.

Resolved, That the act of a convention to can only hold a political party when that convention is "*fairly called and justly constituted*, and gives an honest and full expression of the wishes of a majority of their political associates."

4. Resolved, That the nomination of John Wentworth for congress, made by the late congressional convention in this district, is destitute of all those high moral sanctions so imperiously called for in advocacy of democratic principles, and therefore is not binding upon us as democrats, inasmuch as it was obtained by means that were *unfair, corrupt, unequal, dishonest, oppressive*, and anti-democratic in character, and if tolerated would tend greatly to the injury of the democratic party, and would be causing reproach and obloquy to the Democratic Party and Democracy, for the supremacy of which in unassailed purity we ever have and ever shall honestly contend.

5. Resolved, That we reject the nomination of that convention and do hereby reaffirm our support at the coming August election, being well satisfied that one who can stoop to *fraud, corruption, slander, calumny*, and detraction to blight the character and destroy the prospects of an honest rival for democratic honors, is base and unprincipled at heart, and *may prove treacherous* to the cause he is avowedly to bring one on whom no reliance can be placed for whose honesty there can be no guarantee. *Who can stoop to fraud, corruption, slander, calumny, and detraction to blight the character and destroy the prospects of an honest rival for democratic honors, is base and unprincipled at heart, and may prove treacherous to the cause he is avowedly to bring one on whom no reliance can be placed for whose honesty there can be no guarantee.*

6. Resolved, That as democrats, contending for democratic principles, we neither acknowledge the supremacy of a clique nor the infallibility of a junta, but content ourselves with following out as far as practicable the maxims of Jefferson and Madison, as illustrated by their lives and writings, being fully resolved to be ourselves the largest and most democratic body, and to see that they are carried out and maintained in their original truth and purity.

7. Resolved, That as democrats we eschew all party politics, fraud, low cunning and mean intrigue to subvert individual aggrandizement wherever found, or by whomsoever practised, being determined neither to permit nor to be used as tools to advance the ambitious projects of unprincipled men, nor to allow the revered and time-honored principles of democracy to be prostituted to the servation of dishonest and unprincipled politicians, at the expense of high-minded worth and uncompromising integrity.

8. Resolved, That we present to the democratic party of this district, **DR. RICHARD MURPHY**, of Lake, as a candidate for congress, in whose political character as exhibited by his prominent public services for the last ten years in the halls of our legislature and elsewhere, we have the most unbounded confidence; being well assured that in his keeping the interests and honor of the State of Illinois will be

rigidly guarded—the principles of democracy ably and eloquently advocated—their truth vindicated and their purity maintained, as well in practice as in theory; and we call upon all true democrats to rally in his support, and by sustaining Murphy and triumphantly electing him representative of the fourth congressional district in August next, to show to the world that the democracy of Northern Illinois can be neither bought, sold, flattered nor driven to support and elevate the unworthy; while on the contrary they are ever ready and anxious to support and sustain true merit when found battling in their ranks, and will always *cheerfully, gladly, and zealously* rally in the cause of the true and honest-hearted democrat.

9. Resolved, That we are opposed to the high doctrine of a United States Bank and high tariff, because they secure exclusive privileges to some and not equal rights to all, and have a direct tendency to make the rich richer and the poor poorer.

10. Resolved, That the government of these U. S. has an undoubted right to the possession of the Oregon Territory, and ought to take measures to settle it as soon as practicable.

11. Resolved, That we approve of the candidates for the next presidential election, and if fairly constituted and honorably conducted, will yield our whole and hearty support to its nominees.

12. Resolved, That the committee appointed to attend to the general interests of the Democratic Party in this section of the county, be requested to procure the printing of these resolutions together with the proceedings of this meeting.

13. Resolved, That we approve of the protest of the delegates who left the late congressional convention, and in our opinion they would have dishonored themselves and be remiss to their principles had they remained in that convention longer than they did.

On motion.
Resolved, That the thanks of this meeting be tendered to its officers and speakers for the able manner in which they have discharged their duties.

On motion.
Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be signed by its officers, and their publication be requested in the Ottawa Free Trader and the Juliet Signal, and also that they be published in handbills for circulation.

On motion, the meeting adjourned sine die.

WM. BYRNE, President.
DANIEL COSGROVE, V. Presidents
DAVID ROSS,
E. M. MOORE, Secretaries.
CHARLES NOBLE,